

# Arizona Republican Editorial Page

The Arizona Republican  
Published by  
ARIZONA PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
The Only Paper in Arizona Published Every Day in  
the Year. Only Morning Paper in Phoenix.  
Entered at the Postoffice at Phoenix, Arizona, as Mail  
Matter of the Second Class.  
Address all communications to THE ARIZONA REPUBLICAN,  
Phoenix, Arizona.  
TELEPHONES:  
Business Office ..... 422  
City Editor ..... 424  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
Daily, three months, in advance ..... 2.00  
Daily, six months, in advance ..... 4.00  
Daily, one year, in advance ..... 8.00  
Sundays only by mail ..... 2.50

The truest mark of being born with  
great qualities is being born without  
envy.  
—La Rochefoucauld.

## It is for the Good of All

The proposition to establish a civic center by the taking over by the city and county jointly, of the Central school property, is one which appeals strongly to all who are interested in the beautification and the upbuilding of Phoenix. A joint building for the transaction of public business, a building architecturally beautiful and fireproof, would enhance the value, in different degrees, of property in every part of the city. It would be a matter of pride to the people of the county; the county would share with the city the material benefit of it, and there would be created, with the buildings already erected on the adjoining block, a group of municipal buildings second to none in the country.

There will be a meeting at the city hall tonight for the consideration of this important question. It will be brought up in the form of a report, adopted by the general committee, consisting of the board of supervisors, the city council, the school board and the executive committee of the Maricopa County Non-Partisan Taxpayers' league. The report outlines a plan for the acquisition of the Central school property, but makes no suggestion regarding the sale of either the courthouse plaza or the city hall plaza, or the alternative of bond issues by the city or county.

Whether the plan outlined in the report or some other plan should be finally adopted, one idea should be kept steadily in mind—that of promptly providing city parks, playgrounds, breathing spaces which will be more difficult to acquire as property advances in value. The proper settlement of this important matter is of vital interest to every taxpayer, and, whatever may be the views of anyone on this question, we urge all taxpayers to attend the meeting.

In the discussion of the question of a civic center, the distribution of the expense between the city and the county naturally arises, and we find the following situation: The taxable value of the county last year was \$27,802,067; that of school district No. 1 was \$9,534,005, so that the valuation of the city, slightly less than that of the school district, was practically one-third of the total county valuation. Should the city and county later decide to sell the present city and county plazas, ample money would be provided, not only to build the necessary modern municipal structures on the new site, but to purchase adequate grounds for parks. If it were decided to sell but one plaza, no bonds would be needed for a municipal building by the party selling, while if bonds were issued for building, those issued for the city's share of the improvement would rest solely on it. Of the bonds for the county's share, the city would support one-third. Thus, for the total improvement, the city would pay twice as much as the county outside the city.

Now, as to the benefits. That a civic center would be of great advantage to the city, not only to that part adjacent, but to every part of it, and would result in a centralization of the public business, of great advantage to the taxpayer, is conceded, and it is also conceded that whatever makes Phoenix better and bigger, increases the value of every acre of land in the valley.

There is a more direct advantage to the country in the greater convenience that would be afforded for the transaction of public business, for the bulk of the business of the courthouse is with the people of the country, who transact a large amount of the business at the adjacent Water Users' building.

If ever there was a question before the people of Phoenix which involved the satisfaction or service of no selfish interest, it is this question of a civic center. It seems impossible that there should be a disagreement concerning it.

## An Educational Scramble

Yuma county has just had a recall election, and John M. Hess has been replaced as county school superintendent by one of four women candidates for the office. This contest has occupied the Yuma mind to the obscuration of all other terrestrial affairs for the last three months. The tariff, the imminence of war with Japan and even baseball have been neglected in the intensity of interest in the recall election.

Mr. Hess was charged by his accusers with having addressed amatory and inflammatory missives in scraps of three languages to a beautiful young lady teacher of the Yuma schools, with having called her "ma chere" and with having quoted "Zoa mou sas agapo," which is pretty nearly the real thing in the way of a declaration of sentiment.

Mr. Hess replied that his accusers had monkeyed with the context and that he was thus placed in a false light before the world; that what he really wrote was a curious Græco-German jumble, "Ach, so ist himmer, aber zoa mou sas agapo," the first four German words meaning "It is always so," and the last German word, with its Greek companions, meaning, according to the understanding of Mr.

Hess, "But, child of light, I know thee," though the commonly accepted interpretation is, "My life, I love you."

But this was not the beginning of the trouble. These missives were addressed to the school teacher in the way of condolence after an alleged persecution of her was begun by a majority of the school trustees who, Mr. Hess alleges, sought to get even with him for attempting to prevent a raid on the school fund for the benefit of themselves and certain youthful relatives. These missives, he says, were seized upon by the trustees as a pretext to remove the bar which he was trying to keep in front of the funds.

Anyway, the recall was started, and a solid phalanx of women entered the field, two democrats, one independent and one socialist. In spite of the division of the Hess opposition, one of the democratic ladies was elected by a slight plurality.

A regrettable thing in connection with the affair is the wrecking of the health of the young lady school teacher, who was a most estimable young lady. She is now lying in a Los Angeles hospital, her nerves shattered, it is feared, beyond cure, by her Yuma educational experience. When folks descend into the political arena they become like wolves.

## An Indiscreet Judge

The decision of the Missouri supreme court in the case of Col. William R. Nelson, owner of the Kansas City Star, and one of the leaders of the progressive movement, will teach Missouri judges that a decision must not be prepared in advance of a hearing. Col. Nelson had been adjudged by Judge Guthrie of Kansas City guilty of contempt. The accusation had been based upon a story by a reporter for the Star of a divorce proceeding in Judge Guthrie's court. It was related in the story that the judge had refused to dismiss an action on the motion of the plaintiff until she or her husband had paid the fee of the wife's attorney. It appeared that some of the Kansas City courts made a business of protecting chrysters whose chief practice was in the divorce courts.

The story was a very moderate one, a plain statement of facts and utterly devoid of comment. Unfortunately, the reporter had introduced into the story an incident in another Kansas City divorce court, so that it might be construed that it had occurred in Judge Guthrie's court. The head-line writer did so understand it. But this incident was less flagrant than the one that had actually occurred in Judge Guthrie's court.

Col. Nelson was cited, and by witnesses, including the reporters of other papers, proved that the story as printed by the Star was true. The attorney for Col. Nelson contended that the article was in no sense contemptuous, and that if it were, Col. Nelson could not have been cognizant of it.

At the conclusion of the hearing Judge Guthrie read his decision, which had been prepared the night before, adjudging Col. Nelson guilty of contempt and sentencing him to pay a fine and to serve a term in jail. A writ of habeas corpus relieved him of the jail sentence, and the matter was taken to the supreme court.

The supreme court of Missouri has always regarded the courts of that state as sacred tribunals, and so held the truthful story of the Star to be contemptuous, but seized upon the indiscretion of Judge Guthrie as an excuse for discharging Col. Nelson.

The country-wide publicity given this affair, on account of the prominence of Col. Nelson, will tend to the reformation of those courts that need reformation rather than to the protection of them against that criticism of them in a plain and true statement of their misdoings.

## New Use of the Navy

Why not? An Arkansas congressman, serving his first term, has discovered a money-making or money-saving opportunity which has been going to waste. His scheme would make the American navy an income producer instead of a means for dissipating the wealth of the country. He would make a floating billboard of our war vessels and would send them about the world, decorated with advertisements of breakfast foods, hair restoratives, spavin cures, etc., for which proprietors of these specialties would pay handsomely.

This idea was probably suggested to the new congressman by the street car advertisements. There have been developed in him the qualities of the advertising manager rather than those of the lawmaker.

There is this to be said in favor of his project: It is superior to the practice of desecrating the country landscape by painting advertisements on rocks, fences, barns and other natural and artificial objects. It is far better than the practice of disfiguring towns and cities with huge and unsightly billboards. We cannot give it our unqualified endorsement, but if we were compelled to choose between the billboard nuisance and the advertising navy, we should choose the latter.

The investigation of the lobby to which President Wilson directed attention the other day has brought out the fact that our old friend, Bill McMurray, with his Indian contracts and his prospective three-million-dollar fee, is still haunting the national capital. We thought McMurray was squelched three years ago. But he appears to be infesting only the new members and senators. At any rate, none of the senators who have so far testified appears to have come into contact with him except Mr. Ashurst, and, considering the close relations between Mr. Ashurst and Senators Gore and Owen, McMurray is cultivating an unpromising field.

The Tucson Citizen prints directions by which one may in the short space of five or ten minutes locate the fire department number in the telephone directory. The Republican some time ago made complaint of the obscurity of the fire department number, but we are pleased to say that the telephone company has prepared and will shortly issue another directory against which no complaint can be made on that score.

## SENATOR'S WIFE HAS HAD A ROMANTIC LIFE; FIRST MET HUSBAND IN ALASKA



Mrs. Key Pittman.

Mrs. Key Pittman, the wife of the junior senator from Nevada, has enjoyed a romantic life. A native of California, she visited Alaska in 1896, and there met Key Pittman, the man whom she afterward married. She traveled 2,500 miles over the icy Yukon in the middle of an arctic winter to consummate the vows that had been plighted at Dawson. In Alaska and elsewhere, Mrs. Pittman has not only been Senator Pittman's wife, but his soon companion as well.

## Take a Walk

By WALT MASON

When you're feeling sore and ruddy, prone to feel off language, angry that would shame a Neogene hussy, take a walk; when I'm mad I walk ten miles; all away my anger peters; peace will come to him who toeters round a block. When the world seems dark and dreary as a prison in Siberia, and your heart is sad and weary, take a walk. Fate throws bricks instead of posies, and she hits you where your nose is; comfort comes to him who moseys round a block. If your wife has made a blunder and you feel like raising thunder your central roof-tree under, take a walk; all the cars your wife's enduring, all the ills she's dallying, you'll remember while you're touring round a block. If the kids persist in rolling you by whooping and tumbling till you feel your temper spooling, take a walk; you'll be far less grieved and graveled and your ire will be untraced. If the time that you have traveled round a block, would you mind some, as a token that your manly heart is not bent, leave the bitter word unspoken—take a walk; you'll be glad you scooted leaving your old horn unpoached, by the time you have pivoted round a block.

## EUROPE'S ABLEST DIPLOMAT

For many thousands of quiet Englishmen, Sir Edward's voice is the weightiest in British politics to-day, and his action on any doubtful issue counts for more than the decision of any other man that I know of. He has that sort of power over the mind of Parliament and the country which comes from absolute honesty of mind and character, combined with a balanced judgment and an air of being detached from the petty party exigencies of the moment. When he speaks men instinctively feel that he is saying what he believes, that his opinions have been formed only after serious reflection, that they are altogether his own, and that he means to abide by them. He is one of the least theatrical men. He never talks to a brief or essays any of the smaller arts of attracting attention. He is always and simply himself, just the late Duke of Devonshire was, and his political triumphs are the triumphs of sheer personality. There is a more spacious atmosphere about him than about any of his colleagues, a note of authority, a distant remoteness from the everyday worries of politics, and something that seems to recall a bigger and more leisurely age. Yet Sir Edward has his passions. He is an ardent radical and a convinced unionist. He is a warm admirer of the French Republic, and the speech in which he welcomed President Taft's suggestion of an Anglo-American arbitration treaty surprised the house, and the country, by the fervor of its idealism. As becomes a lover of Wordsworth and a disciple of Walton, Sir Edward has in him something of the philosopher. In the ordinary sense of the words, he never seems to be quite "in politics," so completely he is a participation devoid of all personal aims. One can easily imagine him withdrawing altogether from Westminster without one sigh of regret and spending the remainder of his life in entire contentment among the beloved hills and streams of his Northumberland home. He loves the open air and the outdoor life far more than the protected and sheltered life of parliamentary debate, and probably neither he nor Mr. Roosevelt ever spent a pleasanter day in their lives than when they tramped together through the New Forest and noted the song of every bird they heard—Sydney Brooks, in Harper's Weekly.

## THE OUTLOOK IF WOMEN RULE

Mr. Meekly. Then you would have the word "obey" omitted from the marriage service?  
Miss Strongmind.—Not at all; merely transferred so that the man will say it.

## Correspondence

By HOWARD L. RANN

Correspondence is a substitute for conversation which enables one man to call another a liar without having to have his lower lip sewed up immediately afterward. It is a popular method of communication as a man can say things in a letter which would never occur to him in the presence of a shirt-tailed foe with both fists doubled up. There are three kinds of correspondence—letters, post cards and love letters. Letters are curt, post-cards are written on a typewriter without any regard for spelling or punctuation, and deal with everything from the price of linseed oil to the amount due on the pastor's salary. Banks have their letters printed in 10,000 lots and fill in compound interest with a rubber stamp, but most business men prefer to dictate short, bristling words which inform the recipient that he will prevent a loud noise in the district court by remitting by return mail. The postal card is a bob-tailed imitation of a letter which is capable of expressing deep emotion, especially when accompanied by a picture of somebody making love with great abandon. Husbands who are away from home prefer the post-card to any other form of correspondence, as there is not room enough to explain anything and all they are able to scrawl on is directions for forwarding their mail. The love letter is an added variety of correspondence which reaches the boiling point just prior to the wedding march and then cools off at the rate of 280,000 miles a minute. Few men can read a stale love letter, written in the heyday of youth, without wanting to go out and kick a few shingles off the barn. If it were not for love letters, however, this world would be as devoid of hope as a Leap Year party attended by nobody but old maids and the janitor. The correspondence school is an institution which reaches everything from setting a broken leg to threading a needle without spouting. It is a great incentive to independence, and makes men fearless of everything except their wives.

## REMARKABLE TEST OF AUTOMOBILE'S PULLING POWER

The local agent of a well known car in Los Angeles, California, recently gave a demonstration of the pulling strength of his machine by attaching it, by means of a rope running from the rear axle of the car to the pilot of a hundred-and-ten-ton locomotive,

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and drawing the locomotive along the track. The start was made from a dead standstill, and it was at first thought impossible to move the great mass of iron and steel, as the wheels of the car slipped badly and the locomotive seemed to be glued to the track. After weighting the car with six good-sized men, however, the tires took a firmer hold, and after a long, steady strain the wheels of the engine began to revolve slowly. The accomplishment of the task is testified to by a number of witnesses, who at first declared it impossible, and looked for the breaking of the rear axle or the pulling out of the entire end of the car. The engine was got under way, however, and drawn for some distance down the track without injury to the automobile in any way.—From the June Strand.

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## The Phoenix National Bank